

REMARKS -GENERAL :

Claims Rejections- 35 USC s 102.

Applicant has amended claims 1-4 to point out and distinctly claim subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims Rejections-35 USC s 102

The rejection of Hamann overcome

This Office Action rejected the patent-ability over Hamann citing claims were anticipated . With regards to Hamann's claims featuring a tapered needle shaft with a pointed end and a pinched gate (20) , tapered pointy or tapered blunt instruments are not used to style hair, in particular African textured hair and would pick at or destroy the cuticle layer of hair (See Exhibit A). The current invention has a non tapered tail with rounded ends similar to current hairstyling implements (See exhibit B).

In regards to Hamann's pinched gate the current invention does not have this feature as hair sections are held in place by gentle pressure utilizing the texture or coils found naturally in hair specific to African textured hair. Hamann's pinch has a tiny opening which corrals the hair with an extremely small opening leading into the terminal end. This would require the opening to be thinner than the diameter of a strand of hair.

None of the patents or applications cited are suitable or have the unique features of this current invention. The hairstyle dreadlocks is common to ancient man yet no one to date has patented a tool for the aid in styling this textured style. If this invention were obvious or non unique it

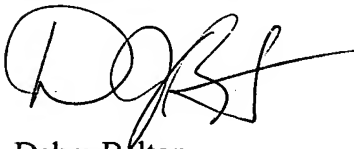
would have existed long before now as the hair on the head existed long before the sewing of garments.

CONCLUSION

For all of the above reasons, applicant submit that the claims are now in proper form and claims define patent ability over the prior art. Applicant has also included documents which support its novelty, unobvious -ness, and patentably over prior art. Therefore Applicant submits this application is now in condition for allowance, which action we now respectfully submit.

If for any reason this application is not believed to be in full condition for allowance, applicant respectfully request the constructive assistance and suggestions of the Examiner pursuant to M.P.E.P. s 2173.02 and s 707.07 (f) in order that the applicant can place this application in allowable condition as soon as possible and without need for further proceedings.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debra Belton', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Debra Belton

Applicant Pro Se

Enclosed Exhibits A-B

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Chesterfield, MO 63017

636-536-6974

EXHIBIT A

DIANE CAROL BAILEY

NATURAL HAIR CARE *and* BRAIDING



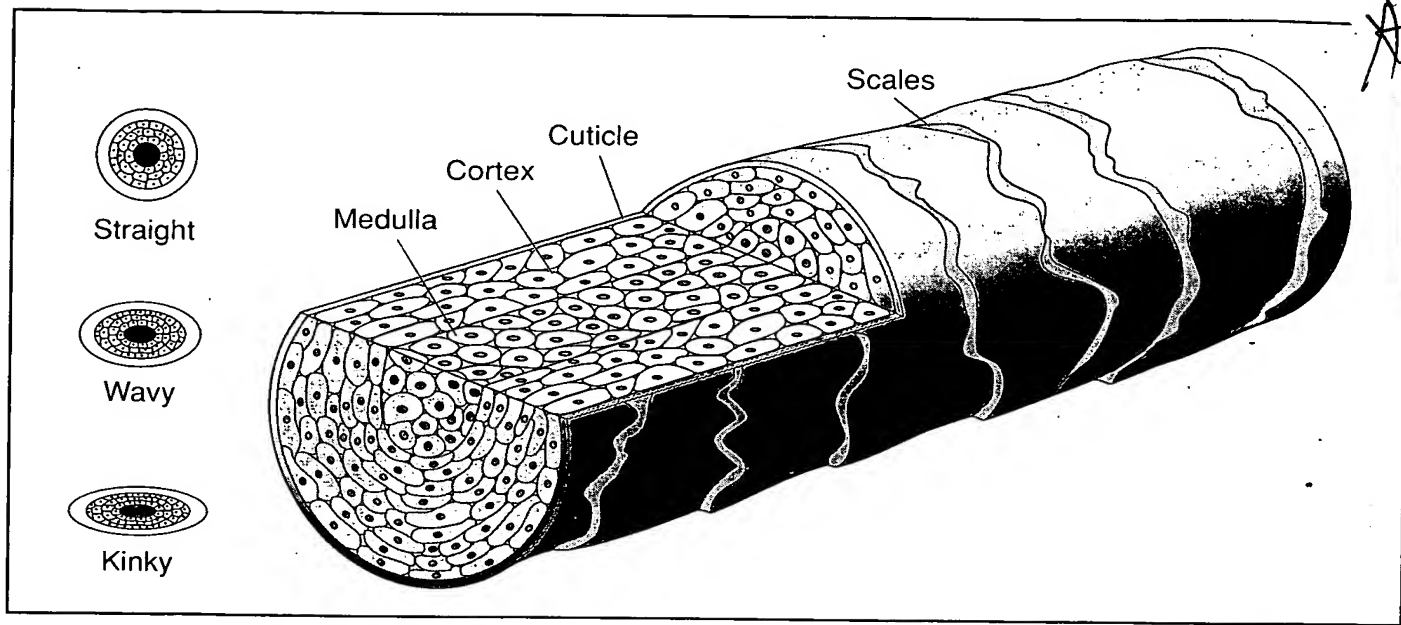


Figure 5.4 The hair shaft

Sebaceous, or oil, glands consist of little sac-like structures in the dermis. Their ducts are connected to hair follicles. Sebaceous glands frequently become troublemakers by overproducing and bringing on a common form of oily dandruff. Normal secretion of an oily substance from these glands, called sebum, gives luster and pliability to the hair and keeps the skin surface soft and supple. The production of sebum is influenced by diet, blood circulation, emotional disturbances, stimulation of endocrine glands, and drugs.

Endocrine glands. The secretions of the endocrine glands influence the health of the body. Any disturbance of these glands can affect the health of the body and, ultimately, the health of the hair.

Drugs, such as hormones, can adversely affect the hair's ability to receive permanent waving and other chemical services.

Hair Shaft Structure

The hair shaft consists of three parts:

1. *cuticle*
2. *cortex*
3. *medulla*

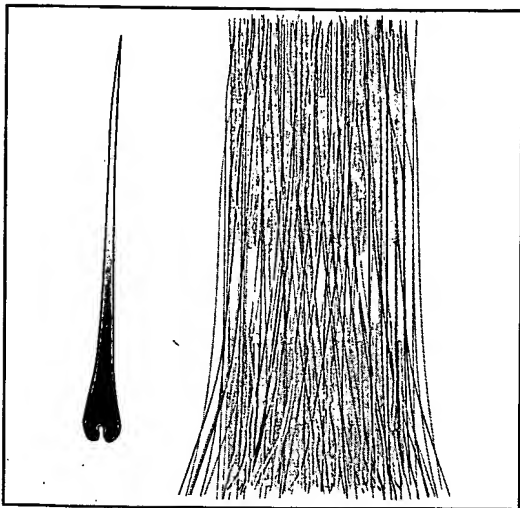


Figure 5.5a Straight hair

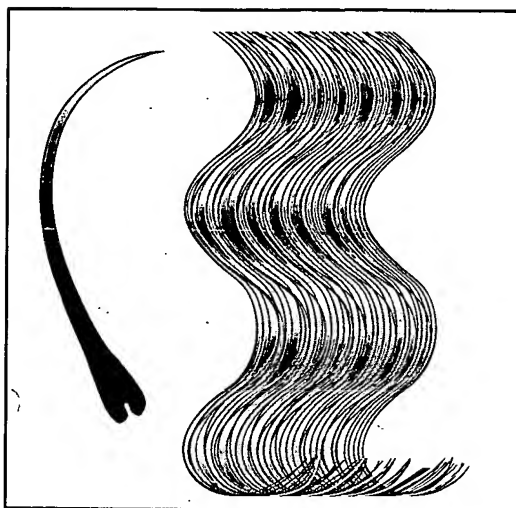


Figure 5.5b Wavy hair

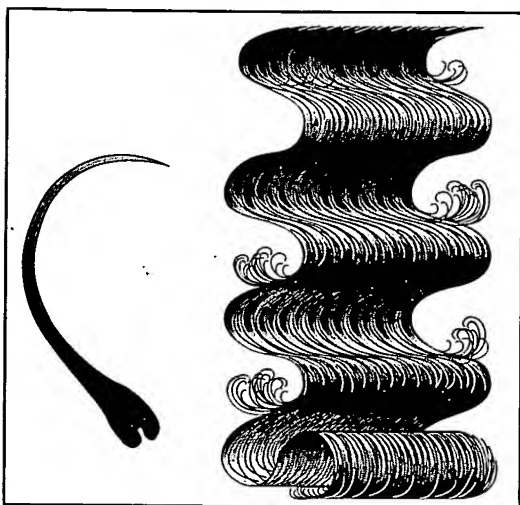


Figure 5.5c Curly hair

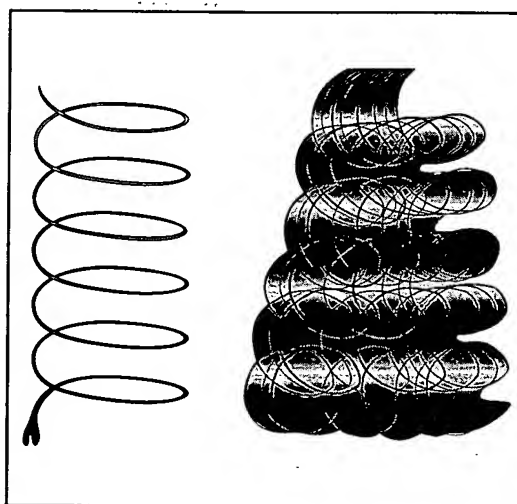


Figure 5.5d Coily hair

In structure and form, hair is classified into three general configurations. As the hair grows away from the scalp, it assumes the shape and size of the hair follicle.

A cross section view of the hair under a microscope reveals that:

- 1. straight hair is usually round*
- 2. wavy hair is oval to round*
- 3. curly hair is almost flat*
- 4. coiled or kinky hair is flat and spiraled*

Anyone can have straight, wavy, or curly hair, regardless of their race.

EXHIBIT B

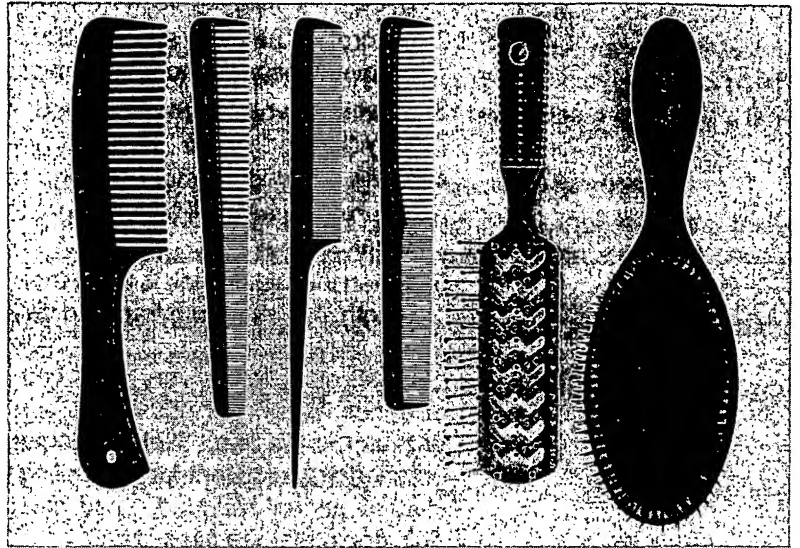
Milady

TV



**Thomas Hayden
and
James Williams**

Chapter 1 Brushing and Combing



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After you have mastered this chapter, you will be able to:

1. Explain what must be determined before brushing or combing Black hair.
2. List five reasons to avoid brushing the Black client's hair.
3. Give the procedure for brushing Black hair.
4. Give the procedure for combing Black hair.

INTRODUCTION

Because of its density, texture and curl configuration, the Black client's hair can break more easily than Caucasian hair. Caution then must be exercised when brushing or combing Black hair.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS IN BRUSHING AND COMBING

Many Black clients rely on chemical services such as relaxing and soft curl perming to keep their hair manageable. The regrowth at the scalp will be a different texture from the rest of the hair. Each section must be separately considered when brushing and combing.

You will have to determine the following:

- If the client's hair has been chemically relaxed, soft curl permed, pressed, or left in its natural state.
- If the hair warrants brushing, combing, or both.
- What service you are about to perform.

BRUSHING

Brushing distributes the oils from the scalp throughout the hair. Brushing also stimulates oil and lymph glands and increases circulation.

When to Brush

Brushing is advisable:

1. If the client's hair and scalp are excessively dry. Brushing will stimulate oil production and distribute the oils throughout the hair.
2. To evenly distribute products such as pomade.
3. As a styling technique to remove roller lines after a set.

Procedure for Brushing

1. Remove hair ornaments.
2. Detangle with a wide-tooth comb.
3. Section the hair into four parts: forehead to nape; ear to ear.
4. Work forward starting at the nape. Hair at the nape usually has the tightest curl pattern, which makes it the most difficult to brush. It is not necessary to brush briskly. Always use a gentle, but firm, touch.
5. Brush gently, in sections, until you reach the forehead.
6. Take the brush and begin brushing in 1/2-inch sections using your other hand to hold the hair you are not brushing out of your way.
7. Brush downward. Never use reverse brushing -- it will tangle the client's hair and can cause breakage.
8. Hold the ends of long hair taut to stretch out the curls and protect hair while brushing.

COMBING

You'll have to master combing if you are to detangle sections, make partings, and style the Black client's hair.

Detangling

Detangling is the first step in every professional service you will perform on the Black client. Excessively curly hair must be detangled carefully and gently due to its fragile composition.

You will need the following combs:

1. **Detangling comb.** This is a wide-tooth comb with smooth, heavy teeth molded into an S-pattern. Teeth should be spaced approximately 1/8 inch apart. This comb usually has two rows of teeth (Figure 1-2).
2. **Basic wide-tooth comb.** This may be used as long as there is sufficient space between the teeth. This comb usually has only one row of teeth (Figure 1-3).

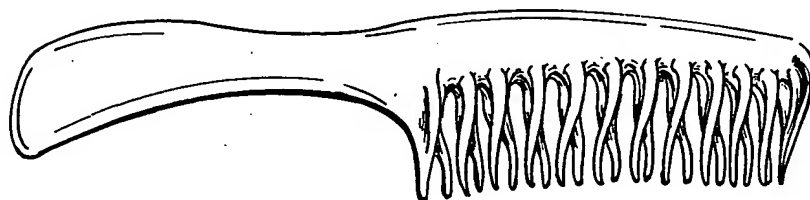


Figure 1-2. Detangler comb



Figure 1-3. Wide-tooth comb

\$9.95/BEAUTY
(CANADA: \$14.95)

"*Good Hair* by Lonnice Brittenum Bonner is a must-give
book for every sister!" —*Essence* magazine

With *Good Hair*, Lonnice Brittenum Bonner has written a ground-breaking and
very funny book lauding the beauty and versatility of Black hair.

"Good hair" no longer has to mean hair that is chemically altered or straightened
to within an inch of its life; it can simply mean hair that is healthy looking. Bonner
explains how we can get out from under a perm, gracefully, by switching to a short
"natural," wearing braids, or using a mild texturizer. She then tells us which sham-
poos, conditioners, and tools are best for natural or texturized hair.

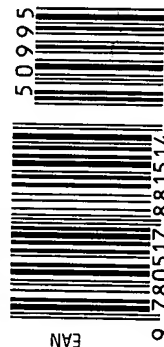
Simply put, *Good Hair* tells Black women that we've got to change our ideal of
beauty. Beauty for Black women is not, and cannot ever be, a Caucasian beauty. In
the same way that our lips and our hips are more defined, the same goes for our hair.
Our natural hair has a vitality and a life all its own. If you take only one thing away
from *Good Hair*, perhaps it will be the notion that until we are convinced of our own
inherent beauty, we cannot be convincing to others.

LONNICE BRITTENUM BONNER began her writing career as a newspaper reporter
with the *Oakland Tribune*. She became a hair outlaw in 1988 after a lifetime of chron-
ically short, damaged hair. She lives in Connecticut with her husband and son.

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HEALTH & BEAUTY

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get this book! I love this book!" —Oprah Winfrey

GOOD HAIR

LONNICE BRITTENUM BONNER



Author of
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TOOLS OF THE TRADE

The gentlest, safest tools you can use on your hair are your own hands. If you are interested in hair that grows instead of breaks, you will quickly learn how to section and detangle your hair with your fingers.

In my experience there are a few things you should have for daily hair maintenance. A good rule of thumb is to think gentle when choosing hair tools, things that won't catch onto curly hair, materials that are smooth, plastics that have no rough edges. Remember, most problems with African hair stem from subtle, gradual, daily abuse. Beauty supply stores usually have the best selection of tools to choose from as well as a pretty good price range. Here's my list:

THE HAIR TOOL BOX

A PLASTIC, WIDE-TOOTHED COMB — make sure it's of good quality by examining between the teeth for sharp plastic edges. Run the comb over the back of your hand to see if it scratches. If the teeth are needle sharp, you can only imagine what they will do to your scalp and hair.

A GENTLE, NATURAL BRISTLE BRUSH — I had always heard that you should use a natural bristle brush every day, so you can distribute scalp oils throughout your hair. I was a faithful disciple of this edict for many years and for years there was more hair in my brush than on my head. Then I visited a dear aunt and uncle in Tennessee and noticed that my uncle used a baby hair brush. I didn't notice much hair in his brush, so I got one. My version is a natural bristle complexion brush. I reasoned that bristles that are gentle to the complexion would be easy on the scalp and hair. I realize that some of you may be blessed with stronger hair than mine and may be able to use a stiffer brush and keep your hair. Use whatever works for you.

BEDTIME HAIR CARE — Girlfriends, I know you want to get away from wearing a "rag" on your head in bed. But he can't run his fingers through it nowadays if you don't have anything for him to run them through! Here's what you do; put your scarf under the pillow and put it on after he's done running his fingers through your locks or at least get a proper pillowcase. Read on.

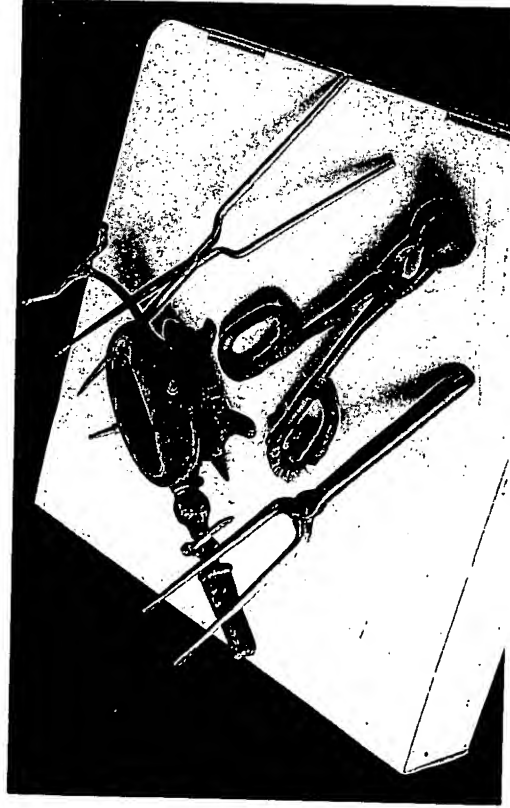
PILLOWCASES: When your hair lays unprotected on a cotton pillowcase, the hair catches onto the tiny cotton fibers and breaks. It is doubly abusive to chemically straightened hair. What we're talking about here is **gradual** damage. The absorbent cotton material also absorbs any protective oils your scalp may secrete. In short, it helps the breakage cycle along.

BETTER CHOICE: Get a satin pillowcase. As you know, satin and silk are the gentlest materials when it comes to your hair. You may also find that a satin pillow cover will help curls and waves stay intact because the satin weave allows your hair to slide over the fabric. And it doesn't have

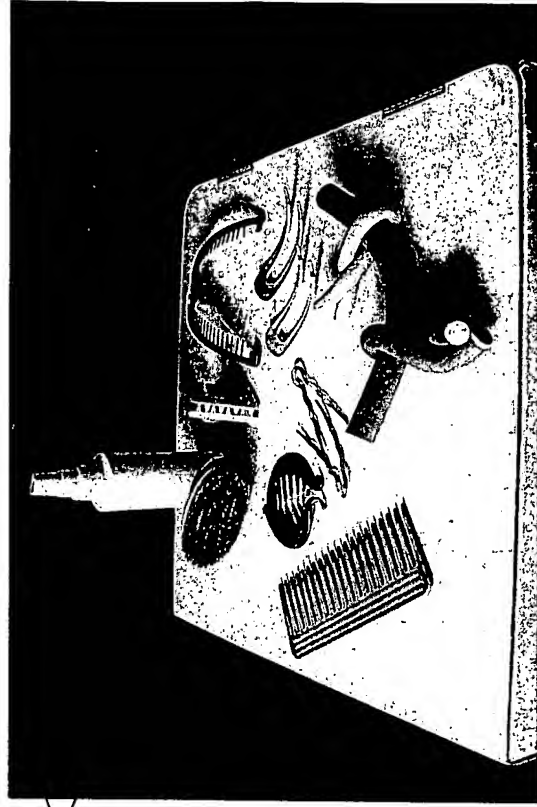
to cost a fortune — you can pick up a satin pillow cover for about five to ten dollars at most department stores. If you are rich, you can spring for actual pillowcases and matching sheets.

SCARVES: Start collecting great looking scarves to wear and sleep in. Pick them up at second hand stores for anywhere from fifty cents to three dollars. If you have a satin pillow cover you can get away from wearing a scarf most of the time. However, if your hair is in that in-between length and too short to put up for sleeping, you may find that wearing a scarf helps your curls and waves last longer.

HAIRPINS — Avoid using metal bobby pins and hair pins. The only kind I will use in a pinch are the metal kind with two crimped prongs, not the kind with a crimped prong and a flat prong. Some hair care experts say you can use the latter type as long as the plastic tips remain on the ends, but



Tools of Antiquity.
Antique gas jet heater with curling irons and "pullers." Before the hot comb, your hair was pulled through this mean looking tool in order to straighten it.



Tools of the trade.

Clockwise, lower left: comb, faux tortoiseshell hairpins and hairclip, gentle hairbrush, squirt bottle, plastic "clippie", plastic hairpins and flexible rubber rollers.

I find this to be a waste of time and hair. The edges of the flattened metal hair pins rub against your hair shafts like little knives and break them off.

BETTER CHOICE: Use the faux plastic tortoiseshell hair pins. You can find them at the barrette display in beauty supply stores, department stores and better drug stores. The smallest ones are a bit larger than metal bobby pins and they also come in sizes large enough to anchor an upsweep. They cost about three to four dollars a pair, but they will last much longer than the metal variety, you won't lose them as easily and they'll keep hair on your head.

SPRITZ WATER BOTTLE — Use the water spritz when you want to dampen all or part of your hair for de-tangling or re-styling. The key to faster drying is not to saturate your hair but to mist it. You can buy spritz bottles from the beauty